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**Subject:** Latest Developments Regarding the Republic of Kosovo  
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**Attachments:** [image003.png](#)

I thought you might be interested in the latest developments regarding the Republic of Kosovo.

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### The U.S. & Kosovo Continue Mutual Support

- The U.S. State Department names Matthew Palmer as the special envoy for the Balkans in an effort to restart dialogue between Serbia and Kosovo.
- U.S. Secretary of State Pompeo says that Palmer "will lead our efforts to strengthen U.S. diplomatic engagement in support of peace, stability and prosperity in the region," and, "he will focus on integration of the Western Balkan countries into Western institutions".
- U.S. Special Envoy Palmer, stated, "My goal is to return Belgrade and Pristina to the negotiating table as soon as possible and to ensure the reaching of an agreement", he reiterated the importance of mutual recognition in order to move forward, and says that the main goal is a European future for both Kosovo and Serbia.
- U.S. Senators Ron Johnson and Chris Murphy visited Kosovo and Serbia to discuss the sacrifices required for both Kosovo and Serbia to reach an agreement.
- U.S. Senator Rob Johnson, stated, "America is here to be your friend and both nations (Serbia and Kosovo) will have support in reaching an agreement."
- U.S. President Donald Trump announced that U.S. Ambassador to Germany Richard Grenell will serve as the Special Presidential Envoy for Serbia and Kosovo Peace Negotiations.
- U.S. Special Presidential Envoy for Serbia and Kosovo Peace Negotiations Grenell visited the region days after the Kosovo election to raise the possibility of renewed talks with Serbia, and to discuss the future of Kosovo's governmental initiatives.
- In response to Ambassador Grenell's appointment, Kosovo's President Thaçi stated, "This gives us confidence and trust in searching for a peace deal with Serbia. Active participation of the U.S. will be decisive to find a final solution between Kosovo and Serbia."
- Albin Kurti is slated to become Kosovo's next Prime Minister after his party recently won the election. In a meeting with new U.S. Special Envoy Grenell he discussed Kosovo-Serbia relations, and stated, "The content and process of reaching a deal with Serbia are more important for the deal to be sustainable, rather than the timeline for reaching that deal."
- In his meetings with Ambassador Grenell, Kurti assured that he would take part in an EU-mediated negotiation with Belgrade.

- In Ambassador Grenell's first official visit to Kosovo and Serbia, he met with Kosovo's President Thaçi, as well as party leaders like Albin Kurti, and business leaders to ensure economic development, job creation, and increased commerce opportunities are priorities in creating lasting peace.
- Kosovo held a ceremonial unveiling of its new monument for the victims of the September 11th terror attacks, where former PM Haradinaj stated, "Eighteen years ago, Kosovo was devastated by an attack on its institutions, people, and on our America friends. On this date each year, Kosovo remembers the victims and sympathize with America."
- U.S. Ambassador to Kosovo Kosnett also attended the unveiling ceremony, where he said, "Americans will always remember the support it has received all from around the world and the response from our Kosovo friends was immediate and sincere. After the attack, across Kosovo people gathered to march and supported the U.S. to light candles, to donate blood. Some Kosovo citizens even volunteered to join the U.S. military to fight in the global war against terrorism."

<https://foreignpolicy.com/2019/08/30/us-plans-to-jump-back-into-balkans-with-new-envoy-serbia-kosovo-dialogue-dispute-state-department-diplomacy-europe/>  
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<https://sk.usembassy.gov/statement-by-special-presidential-envoy-ambassador-richard-grenell/>

### New Initiatives Improve Quality of Life

- FDI into Kosovo reached 41.5€ million in May, while the same month last year only produced 19.3€ million.
- Foreign remittances into Kosovo were 78.4€ million in May, a 6.4% increase year-on-year.
- The greatest foreign investment into Kosovo in May was from Slovenia at 8.5€ million, followed by Germany at 7.7€ million, while the sectors that attracted the most foreign investment were real estate, renting, and business activities with 21.5€ million and transport, storage, and communication with 8.1€ million.
- The EBRD is looking for a contractor to work with the Kosovar government to develop an auction mechanism to secure large scale renewable energy deployments.
- Kosovo has set a renewable energy target of an additional 400 MW of capacity by 2026, which would meet 25% of the country's energy demand and reduce its dependence on coal powered plants.

<https://seeneews.com/news/net-fdi-inflow-to-kosovo-rises-in-may-666448>  
<https://www.pv-magazine.com/2019/09/13/kosovo-planning-auction-scheme-for-solar-and-wind-capacity/>

### Kosovo's Government Sees Big Changes

- Kosovo's legislators voted to dissolve parliament in order to pave the way for a parliamentary election after PM Haradinaj resigned.
- Kosovo's President Thaçi, stated, "Kosovo needs a functional and accountable government that can deal with the challenges of the state and the society".
- Kosovo opposition Vetevendosje Party won the parliamentary election with 26% of votes. It's leader Albin Kurti is now slated to form the government.
- KFOR, Kosovo's military is working hard to ensure a safe and secure environment, and freedom of movement for all its citizens, regardless of ethnicity.
- A KFOR spokesperson says that the security situation is "calm and under control", and that they are "cooperating with all local and international security organizations".

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<https://emerging-europe.com/news/kosovo-opposition-parties-win-clear-victory-in-parliamentary-election/>

### Kosovo Works to Improve Bilateral Relations

- Britain, France, Germany, Italy, and the U.S. released a joint statement stating that they, “stand united in our aim to see the full normalization of relations between Kosovo and Serbia via a comprehensive, politically sustainable, and legally binding agreement that contributes to regional stability. We stand ready to assist in any way possible.”
- The EBRD will provide 25€ million to Kosovo’s Newco Ferronikeli (sole ferro-nickel producer) to implement higher environmental standards and create energy efficient investments. This will decrease the company’s greenhouse gas emissions by about 38,615 tons of CO2 annually. The money will decrease energy costs and improve efficiency and quality in production, allowing the company to become a competitive exporter.
- The Visegrad-Four (Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia) back the accession of Western Balkan countries to the European bloc, claiming that security in the Western Balkans means security for Europe.
- Japan’s PM Shinzo Abe says that Japan will continue to support the development of Kosovo, especially in the areas of social and economic reform, as well as increasing bilateral ties between the two countries. Japan will be opening a diplomatic office in Kosovo early next year.
- Albania, Kosovo, and North Macedonia seek business cooperation by hosting a forum to facilitate commerce through institutional cooperation and create bilateral opportunities of cooperation, investments, and common access to regional markets.
- The European Parliament's Committee on Civil Liberties continues its support for visa liberalization for Kosovo’s citizens, and will begin talks with the European Council in support of Kosovo’s visa waiver.

<https://m.washingtontimes.com/news/2019/aug/13/rs-4-western-states-urge-restart-of-serbia-kosovo/>  
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Sincerely,

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